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**SAN ANGELO, TEXAS, BUSINESSMAN SENTENCED TO
10 MONTHS IN FEDERAL PRISON ON FEDERAL TAX CONVICTION**

United States Attorney Richard B. Roper announced that Troy Bruce Pierce was sentenced this morning in federal court in Lubbock, Texas, by the Honorable Sam R. Cummings, United States District Judge, to ten months imprisonment and ordered to pay \$66,107.34 restitution and \$25,000 cost of prosecution. In February, Pierce pled guilty to one count of subscribing to a false income tax return. Judge Cummings ordered that Pierce surrender to the Bureau of Prisons on June 10, 2005.

Court documents state that Pierce was the sole owner and president of Spring Crest, Inc., a carpet and drapery sales and installation business located in San Angelo, Texas. According to the factual resume that was filed in court, for tax year ending December 31, 1998, Pierce under-reported his taxable income — reporting \$132,194.00 when he well knew the income was \$253,284.19, resulting in a tax loss to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) of \$41,869.31. In addition, for the tax year ending December 31, 1999, Pierce under-reported his taxable income — reporting \$149,967.00 when he well knew the income was \$219,636.49, resulting in a tax loss to the IRS of \$24,238.04.

The factual resume also states that during tax years 1998 and 1999, Pierce diverted corporate income and failed to report all of the income received by the corporation. He diverted the corporate income to his personal accounts. He also failed to report on his personal tax returns rental income he received from Spring Crest, Inc. The combination of the rental income and the diverted corporate income from Spring Crest, Inc. resulted in a tax loss in the total amount of \$66,107.34 to tax years 1998 and 1999.

U.S. Attorney Roper praised the investigative efforts of the Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation (IRS-CI). The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Paulina Jacobo of the Lubbock, Texas, U.S. Attorney's Office.

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